

From: "Distance Education Study" < disted@loc.gov>
To: < jfed@loc.gov>
Subject: Fw: As requested
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-----Original Message-----

From: NHPRC NHPRC < nhprc@arch1.nara.gov>
To: disted@loc.gov < disted@loc.gov>
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 1999 9:31 AM
Subject: As requested

> February 4, 1999
>
> Ms. Sayuri Rajapake
> Attorney-Advisor
> Office for Policy and International Affairs
> Office of the Register
> Library of Congress
> James Madison Memorial Building, Room LM-403
> 101 Independence Avenue, SE
> Washington, DC 20540
>
> Dear Ms. Rajapake,
>
> Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the second
> Notice of Request for Information issued by the Copyright
> Office and published in the Federal Register on December
> 23, 1998 regarding the promotion of distance education
> through digital technologies.
>
> Through this letter we wish to expand on our comments
> included in the letter to you by Dr. Mary A. Giunta, the
> NHPRC's Director for Communications and Outreach, dated
> December 3, 1998.
>
> The National Historical Publications and Records
> Commission (NHPRC) is authorized, under Public Law 44
> U.S.C. 25, to undertake a wide range of activities to preserve,
> publish, and make accessible for use documentary sources

- > relating to the history of the United States.
- >
- > The NHPRC recently funded a two-year project under the
- > aegis of the Alaska Department of Education, Division of
- > Libraries, Archives, and Museums to develop
- > document-based secondary-level curriculum materials about
- > the Klondike and Alaska Gold Rush era. The project will
- > create a digitized library of an estimated three thousand
- > pages of documents, a teacher resource packet with
- > suggested activities, an annotated bibliography, a list of
- > related Internet sites, Gold Rush era historic sites to visit,
- > and information on other related archival and museum
- > collections. The materials will be made available over the
- > Internet to facilitate ease of access in Alaska's schools and
- > use beyond Alaska's borders. As the vehicle to make the
- > collections available for distance learning, the Internet is
- > especially appropriate for Alaska.
- >
- > For the past three years, the NHPRC has funded the Model
- > Editions Project, directed by Professor David Chesnutt at the
- > University of South Carolina, to address the scholarly and
- > technological issues involved in developing new approaches
- > to enhance intellectual access to documentary editions. The
- > ultimate goal of the project is to establish a national
- > database of historical documentary sources that can be
- > accessed by means of a single comprehensive index,
- > enhanced with digital images of visual materials such as
- > maps and portraits, and preserved according to archival
- > standards for electronic formats. The database will be made
- > available to educational institutions by subscription; it is
- > expected that the project will eventually become
- > self-supporting. Currently NHPRC staff is preparing a report
- > regarding possible changes in the NHPRC subvention
- > program for the Commission's consideration at its February
- > 1999 meeting. Part of this report deals directly with online
- > publication. Among other things, the report will recommend
- > that editors of sponsored editions negotiate the broadest
- > range of formats to secure future use in other medias as they
- > become available to the general public.
- >
- > The NHPRC continues to seek ways to make its sponsored
- > projects available to the widest possible audience. We
- > therefore ask that every effort be made to encourage distance

> learning, in particular for sources vitally important to the
> understanding of United States history.

>

> Best wishes.

>

> Sincerely,

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> ANN C. NEWHALL

> Executive Director

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